



PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION
TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY
2161 UNIONVILLE – DEASON ROAD
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE 37020
TELEPHONE: (931) 294-4111



PAULA A. FLOWERS
COMMISSIONER

For more information, contact Karen D. Alexander, Marketing Coordinator at 931.294.4111

INAUGURAL RECRUIT FIREFIGHTER CLASS TO GRADUATE FROM TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

BELL BUCKLE, TN - Recruit firefighters from across the State of Tennessee will make history this week, becoming the inaugural graduating class at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy.

Located on 330 acres in northern Bedford County, the state-of-the-art training campus has been an eight-week "home away from home" for 24 students, many of whom had never stepped foot into a burning building before attending the Recruit/Firefighter I program at the Academy.

The rigorous eight-week course contained various life and death fire training scenarios in a program schedule that follows the ready-round-the-clock life that firefighters lead. On any given day or night, the students encountered the mundane from classroom lectures and loading fire hose to the heart pounding excitement of rescuing trapped "victims" and handling hazardous fuel spills.

"This is a proud moment for the Academy as well as for the citizens of the State of Tennessee," said Paula A. Flowers, Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance and the State Fire Marshal. "Not only are these students the first Academy recruit firefighter graduates, they are also the first after the events of September 11th to face the new challenges of homeland security."

"The Academy offers this intensive training package in order to prepare the students for situations that they will likely face," stated Stuart Crine, Executive Director of the Fire and Codes Academy. "Firefighters are often the first line of defense in any emergency situation. We are proud of the outstanding effort put forth by these students and I am confident that they are now ready to join the fire service brotherhood."

"I have gained invaluable experience while attending the Academy," said recruit firefighter student Scott Poe of Hendersonville Fire Department. "Being a firefighter is very stressful, knowing that one day a person's life could be determined by my actions. It is a huge responsibility and the Academy training will better prepare me for what I might one day face."

The graduation ceremony will be held at the Academy on Friday, March 21 at 9:00 a.m.